

3 March 1950

Mr. G. Bernard Noble  
Chief, Division of  
Historical Policy Research  
Department of State  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Noble:

Thank you very much for your letter of February 20th concerning the Interagency Conference on Captured Enemy Documentation. As indicated by your enclosures, the Central Intelligence Agency has transferred the major part of its holdings of captured documents to the National Archives and the Library of Congress. We are interested in the problem, however, from the point of view of possible legal responsibility for documents thus transferred, and with regard to a few captured documents retained by the agency for intelligence exploitation.

We shall be very glad to send a representative (or representatives, if permissible) to the next meeting of the Conference, to be held in your office on March 15, 1950. Since the subject to be discussed is of interest to three components of CIA, it would be appreciated if the following representatives might be allowed to attend the meeting: Mr. W. L. Pforzheimer for General Counsel, [redacted] for CIA Archives and Mr. J. J. Bagnall for the Foreign Documents Division.

A statement of our holdings and activity in the field of captured German and Japanese documents will be prepared and submitted at the forthcoming meeting of the Conference.

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE G. CAREY  
Assistant Director for Operations

State Dept. review completed

(State Seal)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to  
RE

February 28, 1950

My dear Mr. Carey:

I enclose (1) a copy of the minutes of the initial meeting of the Interagency Conference on Captured Enemy Documentation, held in the Department of State January 25, 1950, and (2) copies of statements prepared by those agencies present relative to certain aspects of the problem of captured enemy holdings. The purpose of this meeting was to initiate an examination of the many problems associated with allied custody of ex-enemy records and archives captured during World War II, and it is the hope of the Department that this Conference, in subsequent meetings, may serve as a vehicle for joint exploration of these problems with the major agencies concerned.

It would be appreciated if a representative of Central Intelligence Agency could arrange to be present at the next meeting of the Conference to be held in my office (Room 2304, State Annex 3) March 15, 1950 at 10:30 A.M., and at such subsequent meetings as may be held. In addition to State, the following agencies will be asked to send representatives: Archives, Air Force, Army, Central Intelligence Agency, Commerce, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Justice, Library of Congress, and Navy.

I trust that the enclosed papers will provide you with orientation with respect to subjects discussed at the January 25 meeting. The principal topics proposed for the agenda of the March 15 meeting are: (1) the problem of "vesting" documentary holdings, as delineated in the enclosed report of the Office of Alien Property, Department of Justice, and (2) the bearing of existing agreements and commitments which pertain to exploitation and restitution on long-range policy.

It would be of substantial assistance to the Conference if you would be in a position to prepare a statement covering your activity

comparable

Mr. George Carey,  
Assistant Director for Operations,  
Central Intelligence Agency,  
Room 1505, Temporary M Building  
Washington 25, D. C.

-2-

comparable to those enclosed herewith, or, if you prefer, you would be able to present this information orally. Would you be good enough to advise me at your early convenience with regard to your representation at the March 15 meeting as well as with respect to any items which you would care to have included in the agenda?

Sincerely yours,

(signed)

G. Bernard Nobel  
Chief, Division of  
Historical Policy Research

Enclosures : Minutes of 25 Jan meeting

Statements of holdings + documents activities

by: Library of Congress STAT

Dept of Army

[copy attached] .. .. Air Force (Central Air Docs Div.  
duplicate Wright Field)

.. .. Navy (microfilms only)

.. .. State [redacted]

.. .. Commerce (OTS: microfilms +  
[copy attached] .. .. Justice copies)

original + enclosures forwarded to  
Gen Counsel for action on 3 Mar 50